

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for operating a first computer that is connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

C | loading first configuration data including a software portion and a hardware portion for a first task, allocated to the first computer, into the first computer via the network wherein the loading is initiated either independently or in response to a specific request;

automatically reconfiguring the physical hardware structure of the first computer ~~corresponding to~~ with the aid of the hardware portion of the first configuration data so that the first computer exhibits a hardware structure adjusted to the first task; and

processing the first task with the first computer configured with the first configuration data.

Claim 2 (original): A method for operating a first computer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

configuring, prior to completion of the step of processing the first task, a part of the hardware of the first computer that is no longer necessary for the step of processing the first task, for processing a second task by loading second configuration data allocated to the second task into the first computer via the network.

Claim 3 (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:  
processing the second task prior to the completion of the step of processing the first task.

✓ Claim 4 (cancelled)

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